



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

December 29, 2006

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *[Signature]*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – PENNACLE  
FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED, CARSON STREET BOYS AND  
CORNING AVENUE GIRLS GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Carson Street Boys and Corning Avenue Girls Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Carson Street Boys Home and Corning Avenue Girls Home are each four-bed facilities, which provide care for children ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Carson Street Boys Home was providing services for three DCFS children, and Corning Avenue Girls Home was providing services for four DCFS children.

Carson Street Boys Home is located in the Fourth District. Corning Avenue Girls Home is located in the Second District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medications.

Carson Street Boys Home needs to maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short term goals.

Corning Avenue Girls Home needs to clean the backyard patio; clean the fireplace screen; and properly install or replace the curtain rod in bedroom one.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

### **Attachments**

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn., Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Acting Chief Probation Officer  
Greer Davis, Executive Director, Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Pennacle Foundation, Incorporated  
Carson Street Boys Group Home  
6133 East Carson Street  
Lakewood, California 90713  
Phone: (562) 429-3433  
License Number: 197803159  
Rate Classification Level: 14**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Carson Street Boys Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current and include long term goals. However, the NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include short term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendation**

1. Pennacle Foundation management maintain comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and include short term goals.

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendation**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, three children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications they are taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendation**

- 1. Pennacle Foundation management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.**

**VI. Personal Rights****Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Pinnacle Foundation, Incorporated  
Corning Avenue Girls Group Home  
5643 Corning Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90056  
Phone: (310) 645-4841  
License Number: 198202803  
Rate Classification Level: 14**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Corning Avenue Girls Group Home is located in a residential community. Overall, the exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are adequately landscaped. However, the backyard patio is not clean.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the fireplace screen in the den has a build up of soot.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. The window screens are in good repair. However, in bedroom one, the curtain rod is not properly installed. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Pinnacle Foundation management:**

- a. Clean the backyard patio.**
- b. Clean the fireplace screen in the den.**
- c. Properly install or replace the curtain rod in bedroom one.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section**



#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

##### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

##### **Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, three children do not have current court authorizations for the psychotropic medications they are taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

##### **Recommendation**

- 2. Pennacle Foundation management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medications.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

#### **Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

#### **Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**



*A Non-Profit Organization for the Developmentally Disabled Youth*  
Corporate (323) 750-7624 / fax (323) 753-1381 / Pgr (800) 800-9456

May 26, 2006

Candace Rhue, Group Home Audit Supervisor  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Auditor-Controller  
500 West Temple Street, Room 515-A  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Ms. Rhue,

The following is Pennacle Foundation response to the Program Audit Report received May 18, 2006.

**Carson Group Home LIC#197803159**

RCL: 14

6133 E. Carson St.  
Lakewood, Ca. 90713

**1. Pennacle Foundation management maintain comprehensive Needs and Service Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and includes short-term goals**

**IMPLEMENTED**

Shelia Welsh, LCSW has been informed that the current NSP did not appropriately focus on the goals of the client nor are they consistent, measurable and realistic. Administration reviewed with Ms. Welsh (via documentation and suggestion supplied by the auditor) what was needed and how the format a needs and service plan that was specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and includes short-term goals. The Administrator and her assistant will review all needs and services plans with Ms. Welsh before implementation.

**1: Pennacle Foundation, INC., management maintain current court authorizations for children taking psychotropic medication**

**IMPLEMENTED**

Due to the changes just set forth in the court approval process there was a glitch in the facility obtaining the authorization in a timely manner. The Administration has learned and understands what the current policy is and has informed Dr. Samuel Smith of the changes. It is however very difficult for any facility to maintain procedures that when changed is not properly communicated to the agencies. Facility Manager and

Administration will ensure that all psychotropic authorization was always current from the courts.

**Corning Group Home LIC #198202803**

5643 Corning Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90056

**Pinnacle Foundation management:**

1. Clean the backyard patio
2. Clean the fireplace screen in the den
3. Repair or replace the curtain rod in bedroom one.

**IMPLEMENTED**

Backyard patio and fire place screen was pressure washed. Curtin rod in bedroom one was replaced. Pressure wash of the patio was added to the general maintenance schedule. It will be the Facility Manager responsibility to ensure that along with the general maintenance schedule that the above will be completed on a quarterly basis (or sooner if needed)/

**Pinnacle Foundation management enroll children in school in a timely manner.**

**IMPLEMENTED**

Facility Manager and Administrator will ensure that the minor are enrolled in school in a timely. It will also be the responsibility of these positions to document the due diligence of the agency in all attempts of school enrollment so that regulatory agencies will have a clean understanding as to the reasons why a minor might is not in school in a timely manner.

Pinnacle Foundation's Administration continues to fine tune their facility checks including but not limited to clients records and program component follow through with supportive documentation. With a better understanding of the NSP it is felt that we continued to grow and fine tune whereas all will be consistent with what is required.

The Facility Managers at each home, Kevin Bennett for Lakewood, Cherlet Collins and DeJuan Fletcher for Corning have all been informed and trained on their responsibilities.

Carolyn Ruffin and Lynn Alexander, Assistant Administrators are the quality assurance staff and will be responsible to ensure the group home plans are working correctly.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Greer Y. Davis, Administrator